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Several years ago, while in the Royal Library, my attention was called to these two books and an examination of the first page of each showed a number of slight variations not noted by Bruun in his otherwise detailed account. This discovery led me to compare the two carefully, with the result that the variations were found to be confined to the preface, the body of the work being the same in both copies. While such differences in early books are familiar enough from our own literature, even as late as Shakspeare, and by no means presuppose different editions, this case seems to be of special interest from the fact that the divergences are confined to a portion of the work. The reason for this I am wholly unable to state or even roughly to surmise, nor am I aware of any other instance of the kind.

All the divergences clearly fall under the head of printer's changes, substitutions of letters and differences in spacing and punctuation. Giving the forms in A, the complete copy, first and then those in B, and supplying pagination and line, the variations may be stated as follows :

Page 1; oc- och<sup>3</sup>, och- oc<sup>5</sup>, ath- at<sup>5</sup>, line ends with ath- with hwn<sup>5</sup>, ath her- at her=<sup>8</sup> dem/- dem<sup>11</sup>, fatti=-fatti<sup>16</sup> wehrste- wehrst<sup>19</sup>, ordinantz- ordinand<sup>21</sup>, Almuen- almw<sup>23</sup>, skul, skulle<sup>24</sup>, skickel- skickelse<sup>25</sup>, . -space<sup>28</sup>, Oc- och<sup>30</sup>.

Page 2.—Christelige- christelig<sup>1</sup>, vile- viller<sup>12</sup>, Da- Daa<sup>14</sup>, och- och<sup>16</sup>, Oc- och<sup>17</sup>, swar- suar<sup>18</sup>, bespottel- bespottelse<sup>18</sup>, oc- och<sup>19</sup>, varre- vaare<sup>24</sup>, bespottel- bespottelse<sup>24</sup>, ladet- lad et<sup>27</sup>.

Page 3.—oc- och<sup>2</sup>, lenger- lenge<sup>4</sup>, vanwittighed- vanuittighed<sup>5</sup>, wforstandi=-wforstandighed<sup>5</sup>, fingre- line ends with dem<sup>6</sup>, och- oc<sup>7</sup>, omgengel=- omgengelse<sup>14</sup>, det- line ends with dem<sup>16</sup>, till- til<sup>19</sup>, de- line ends with i<sup>19</sup>, cap.- ca.<sup>20</sup>, døden- line ends with samtøcke<sup>20</sup>, ath ware- athware<sup>23</sup>, oc- och<sup>24</sup>, till-til<sup>26</sup>, till-til<sup>27</sup>, ath- at<sup>29</sup>.

Page 4.—huad- hwad<sup>1</sup>, oc- och<sup>6</sup>, pa- begins the following line<sup>6</sup>, lade- begins the following line<sup>7</sup>, och- oc<sup>17</sup>, til- till<sup>18</sup>, ehwor- ehwor<sup>20</sup>, de synis- desynis<sup>21</sup>, Och- Oc<sup>21</sup>, meddeler- medlere<sup>23</sup>, til- till<sup>25</sup>, doden- døden<sup>27</sup>, swmmen- sum-

men<sup>28</sup>, oc- och<sup>30</sup>, komme- komme<sup>30</sup>, oc- och<sup>31</sup>, skyld/- skyld<sup>31</sup>.

Page 7, the last of the preface, is the same in both copies.

DANIEL KILHAM DODGE.

University of Illinois.

### THE OLD ENGLISH OPTATIVE OF UNEXPECTANT WISHING.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—It is generally assumed that sentences of the form, "O that Ishmael might live before thee!" (Gen. 17, 18), corresponding to Latin sentences beginning with *utinam*, do not exist in Old English, or at least that there is no clear evidence of their existence. Thus Mätzner says (*Eng. Gram.* 3, 430): "Der älteren Sprache sind Sätze dieser Art, worin *that* dem Lat. *utinam* entspricht und die einen Hauptsatz mit dem Begriffe des Wunsches voraussetzen, fremd." He cites only: "And þæt nān man nenne man ne underfō ne længe [var. l. nā leng] þonne þrēo niht (*Legg. Cnut.* I, B. 25)." Koch remarks (*Hist. Gram.* 2, 46): "Der Optativ oder Conjunctiv des Präteritums mag ursprünglich die Aussage als eine solche hinstellen, deren Verwirklichung der Sprechende wünscht, wahrscheinlich schon im Ags., etwa wie: "Wälā, āhte ic mīnra handa geweald (*ach, hätte ich doch meiner Hände Gewalt*). C. 23, 32." Köch's example is not very conclusive, for Mätzner cites it as an example of a conditional sentence (3, 485): "Ahte ic mīnra handa geweald, and mōste āne tid ūte weorðan, wesān āne winterstunde, þonne ic mid þīs werode—." Mätzner's example does not conform to the instances that are familiar in modern English, because we should not naturally class it as a *utinam*-sentence, but rather as an elliptical sentence of command.

I have, however, found an example to which I believe no exception can be taken. It occurs in the Hatton MS. of the *Cura Pastoralis*, p. 445 of Sweet's edition, and is a translation of Rev. 3, 15: "Ealā, wēre hē āuðer, oððe hāt oððe ceald!" Perhaps further search would bring other instances to light.

ALBERT S. COOK.

Yale University.